Abstract

A method and apparatus useful in network management which makes intelligent, high speed, connection allocation decisions, overcoming difficulties encountered heretofore and providing enhanced network services. During episodes of network congestion, some connection requests for a class of service of low value and with currently a high number of existing connections may be purposefully ignored (not acknowledged with an Acknowledge (ACK) packet) so that the processing capability of a device will not become overwhelmed, causing the dropping of new connection requests without regard to their value. The purpose of intelligent connection allocation is to note the numbers of connections of different classes relative to their service-level contracts, to ignore abundant, low-value connection requests in accordance with value policies when and only when necessary, and to insure that valuable new connection requests that conform to their contract connection rates can be intelligently accommodated.

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